



Groton Stewardship Committee Minutes

Present: Lisa Murray, Chair (Groton Garden Club); Eileen McHugh (Conservation Commission); Anna Eliot (Park Commission); Deb Collum, Vice-Chair; Olin Lathrop (Conservation Commission, Invasive Species Committee); Kim Kuliesis

Absent: Bob Hanninen; Ron Hersch

Others Present: None

Location: Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

When: October 18, 2023

6:30 PM L. Murray called to order. A Quorum was present and acting throughout.

Committee updates

Municipal Boards & Committees

E. McHugh reported that Charlotte Steves has been selected to replace Nick as Conservation Administrator. Background in environmental studies.

O. Lathrop reported that the Conservation Commission has purchased a large parcel off Reedy Meadow Road. The Invasive Species Committee completed some clean up of phragmites and final treatment of knotweed at Surrenden Farms.

L. Murray reported that the Garden Club has started its new year and continuing maintenance on Town Gardens. Garden Club received an award for the garden installed at Town Hall, showcases native plants.

Reports from the field/updates on-going projects:

None.

Municipal Boards & Committees & Other Groups

Motorized dirt bikes on Throne Hill

E. McHugh reported about an incident on Throne Hill that involved an encounter between a teacher from UMass Lowell, Allison Hamilton, a member of the Conservation Commission, who had taken her students up to Throne Hill to observe turtle nesting and were driven off the path by motorized bikers. Groton Conservation Trust property, M. Gerath has posted signs. Will connect Allison with Deb Collum re interest in turtle habitat management.

Discuss outstanding Stewardship business

E. McHugh noted that the outstanding items list maintained by Cons Comm includes some Stewardship items.

Update on Park Commission proposal to accept CRs

A. Elliot raised a discussion item: she would like to explore what entities can hold conservation restrictions in the Town. Q: Should the Park Commission be a holder of CRs that are recorded as part of the Open Space plan. O. Lathrop commented that it is appropriate for Parks to hold CRs v. ConComm. But it depends on the nature of CR, “park-like” v. “conservation-like.” D. Collum inquired as to whether the Parks Comm currently holds any CRs. A. Elliot: none at this time. There are CRs in town that are monitored by Parks Comm. D. Collum: not a question for this committee.

Update on Parks Department proposal for Cow Pond sports area

A. Elliot noted Town Meeting Warrant Article re sale of land for purposes of nitrogen loading. Park Comm primary interest, a portion of the area is abutting land owned by ConComm. E. McHugh: What is the plan for the land? O.Lathrop: Developer is increasing nitrogen loading on his land and wants Town to agree to a CR that will prevent nitrogen loading in an adjacent area. Intention is to mitigate nitrogen loading that will be caused by development and wants to use Town land for this purpose, which requires a CR to prevent Town from doing anything else on the land. Park Comm concern: had intended to use a portion of this land for a future field but would not be able to fertilize. Comments: L. Murray - has the developer been asked to reduce the density of the project.

Stewardship Business – updates

Vacancies on Committee – recruitment updates

K. Kuliesis reported that she has a potential recruit who will join the November meeting.

Approve Meeting Minutes

E. McHugh motion to approve minutes of 6/7/2023, D. Collum second. O. Lathrop abstained; K. abstained due to not being present; others Members present approved. Motion carried 4 -0 -2.

A. Elliot motion to approve minutes of 7/19/2023, D Collum second. O. Lathrop abstained, all other Members present approved. Motion carried 5-0-1.

Set next meeting date

The Committee set the next meeting date for November 29, 2023 at 6:30PM.

Adjourn

Upon a motion by L. Murray, seconded by E. McHugh, it was:

VOTED to adjourn the public meeting.

The motion carried by a roll call vote: (Yes: All present)

Minutes Approved: November 29th, 2023